

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furr, and claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furr in view of Leonhart and Ho.

The gist of the instant invention is to provide a counterweight that can be selectively fitted on a table soccer figure so that the figure can be selectively oriented in different postures. On one hand, as the figure is subjected to the normal high-spirited play by quick pivoting movements, the counterweight has to be tightly fitted on the figure to avoid being slipped off. On the other hand, it is desirable that the counterweight can be easily put on or taken off to selectively orient the figure in different postures. Accordingly, the counterweight of this invention has a resilient portion with a hollow interior and at least one slit formed on a side so as to be tightly but removably fitted on one of the first and second portions of the playing figure.

Furr et al. disclose a table soccer or football game structure in which the playing figure includes a recess for receiving a weight. The weight may be either molded into the playing figure or may be added through an external opening into the recess. The objective of Furr et al. is to bring the center of gravity of the playing figure, along with its longitudinal axis, into coincidence with the longitudinal axis of the actuating rod of the playing figure. The weight can't be easily put on or removed because it is not designed to be selectively fitted on the figure for orienting the figure in different postures.

Leonhart teaches a protective helmet for the head portion of a table soccer game player figure, which is firmly resiliently attached to the head of the game figure by loose pivotal connection about the ear portion thereof such that the helmet has nature and free mobile movement relative to the player figure and the figure is pivoted back and forth during play to make the figure appear more active and animated. Therefore, Leonhart indeed teaches away from the instant invention because the counterweight of the invention has to be tightly fitted and easily removed rather than by loose connection for free mobile movement.

Ho disclose a player structure in a foot-ball game in which a bolt receiving hole and a position hole are respectively defined in the body of the player structure so that a bolt extends through the bolt receiving hole and the shaft are securely engaged with the position hole. A first weight is received in a recess defined in a top end of the body and a second weight is connected to a lower end of the body. The player is maintained at a position where the second weight is hanging above the floor so that a ball can pass below the player without impediment. As can be seen from Ho's art, the first and second weights are not to be easily put on or removed because Ho has no intention to selectively orient the player in different postures.

Accordingly, claim 1 is now amended to particularly point out and claim the subject matter of the invention which is neither taught nor anticipated by any of the cited prior arts. The amended claim 1 includes the limitation that the counterweight has a resilient portion with a hollow interior and at least one slit formed on a side so as to

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be tightly but removably fitted on one of the first and second portions of the playing figure. The amended claim 1 should have overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because none of the cited prior arts has disclosed or suggested such a counterweight which is to be tightly fitted and easily removed.

From the foregoing discussion, it is clear that the instant invention differs from the cited prior arts. The physical difference results in different effects and is not obvious. The amended claim 1 should be patentable. By virtue of dependency, claims 2-5 should also be patentable. The specification has been amended to correct a few editorial and grammatical errors. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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